

Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Date: May 25, 2006

Inspector: Don Ukers

Location: Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane,
345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill, and Norwalk Section)

Storm/

Rain Event: Between 0.85-0.92" of rain was recorded over 5/19-5/21 as reported by NOAA and depending on location..

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways	- The Composite ROW work is accessible from Gallows Hill Rd by an existing trail path with a swing gate, an approved access path in from the east of the ROW, an access road passing through the Archers Lane substation, and an area cleared from the station to the ROW. 5/25/06.	- If necessary, additional measures for stability should be considered for access needs. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, they will need to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-5/25/06.	-N/A until evaluation at the end of work.
Composite	- Active clearing was not noted past Archers Lane. Wood chips have been blown off the cleared ROW in some areas. See the vegetative clearing section for more details. 3/2-5/25/06.	-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 5/25/06.	- Still needs attention
	- Water levels at the 2 nd wetland crossing on the access road at Archers Lane have remained below problem levels. 5/25/06.	- Continue to monitor. 5/25/06.	-N/A at this time
345kV H-Frame	- Other work areas are accessed from Hoyts	-Continue to monitor the conditions of all access roads. If muddy	- N/A at this time

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Norwalk Section	Hill, Chestnut Ridge Rd, the Bethel Res. water plant road, Lime Kiln Rd, Whortleberry Rd, John Todd Way and Costa Lane. Wood chips or stone dust were placed along a majority of the access roads. 3/29-5/25/06.	conditions re-occur, place more wood chips or consider installing silt fence as needed. 5/25/06.	-Continue to evaluate
	- Some ruts were noted in the access road between poles #5-6.	- More wood chips and some repair to the ruts may be necessary. 5/25/06	- Needs attention when feasible.
	- All wetland crossings are still matted and in good shape. 5/25/06	- Continue to monitor. 5/25/06	-N/A
	- A vehicle accidentally drove through the wetland between poles #10-11 after mats were removed. Some ruts were created but the water main was not damaged. 5/25/06	- See erosion control section for more details but ruts should be smoothed out and additional controls installed. 5/25/06	- Needs attention
	- Stone dust and/or gravel access roads are in place at Perry Ave and Broad St. 4/6-5/25/06.	- Controls are in place. 5/25/06.	- N/A at this time
	-Access is gained to new work areas off North Seir Hill Rd. Dust access roads were also being constructed off Kent Rd. in both directions. 5/25/06	-Silt fence was installed along the entire edge of one section of road. Monitor and install more controls if necessary 5/25/06.	- N/A at this time
	-Several wetlands are matted here and some now have silt fence installed at the corners. A few areas still need controls. 5/25/06	- Continue to install haybales (or silt fence) at the corners of the wetland crossings to prevent run-off from the access road to the wetland. 5/25/06.	- Matted crossings from last week now have controls. The newer ones needs attention
Line Construction Composite	- The upper wire had been installed in the structures leading into	- See erosion controls section for more information. 5/25/06.	-N/A

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
345kV H-Frame Norwalk Section	Archers Lane. 5/25/06.		
	- Wire was being pulled in this section at the time of inspection. 5/25/06.	- None at this time. 5/25/06.	-N/A
	- The foundation adjacent to the Norwalk Sub was poured 5/25/06	-See erosion controls section for more information. 5/25/06.	-N/A
	- Structures installation and foundation work continues between Perry Ave. and the Rt 7 extension. (#11071 was being set at the time of inspection) 5/17-5/25/06.	- See erosion controls section for more information. 5/25/06.	- N/A
	- Some poles were delivered for installation off North Seir Hill Rd. 5/25/06	-See erosion controls section for more information. 5/25/06	-N/A
	- Clearing and access road construction were occurring in the new ROW section off Kent Rd. 5/25/06	- -See erosion controls section for more information. 5/25/06	- N/A
Erosion and Sediment Controls Composite	- Water levels appear to remain below problem levels at the 2 nd wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. 2/16-5/25/06.	- None at this time. 5/25/06.	-N/A
	- Silt fence had contained sediment from run-off down the access road past Archers Lane but erosion was noted here. 4/26-5/25/06	-Continue to monitor and install more controls if necessary. 4/26-5/25/06	- N/A at this time
	- Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-5/25/06. Another area	-Make sure chips stay on the ROW. Contractors should remove the off ROW chips since this is not allowed in the D&M plan. 2/22-5/25/06.	-Still needs attention (CL&P is looking into a solution here)

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Erosion controls continued	with deep wood chips off the cleared ROW remains past Archers Lane. 3/15-5/25/06.	- Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 4/6-5/25/06.	- Needs attention when feasible
345kV H-Frame	- An old stockpile was noted at a structure before Rt 53 off Gallows Hill. 5/17-5/25/06	-Make sure that restoration occurs in previously disturbed areas and that materials are removed and not forgotten in place. 5/17-5/25/06	- Needs attention when feasible
Chestnut Ridge Section	- Some run-off was noted along the slope near pole #2. 5/25/06	- Some haybales could be placed along the slope to slow run-off velocity if necessary. 5/25/06	- Needs attention if necessary
	-The majority of the pile at structure#6 has been removed but soil remains encroaching on wetlands 4/12-5/25/06.	- Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-5/25/06.	- Needs attention when feasible
	- The silt fence by structure #9 has been maintained. The adjacent disturbed area should be restored if feasible. 5/17-5/25/06.	-Provide mulch and seed for stabilization 5/17-5/25/06.	-Fence was maintained
Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	- Silt fence and mats remain in place in a number of locations in this section. 4/6-5/25/06.	- Continue to monitor for any muddy conditions or need for repairs. All observed controls remain in good condition. 4/6-5/25/06.	-N/A
	- A vehicle accidentally crossed the stream & wetland between poles #10-11. Some ruts were created in the wetland. 5/25/06	-Any ruts in the stream or wetland should be smoothed out. (No damage to the water main had occurred.)	- Needs attention
	Disturbed soil remained on the access road adjacent to the wetland. 5/17-5/25/06.	Additional controls should be placed across the ROW to prevent sedimentation. 5/17-5/25/06	- Needs attention
Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd			

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Way	-Mats are in place at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of pole #29. 3/2-4/6-5/25/06.	-Continue to monitor the crossing for increasing muddy conditions and install silt fence as needed. 3/2-5/25/06.	-N/A at this time
Norwalk Section	-Silt fence near structure #28 is being monitored and repaired as needed. 5/25/06.	-Continue to monitor .Wetlands are not located immediately adjacent. 5/25/06.	- Silt fence is being monitored
	-Erosion controls remain intact at poles #24 and 25 and further washouts were not noted. 5/25/06.	-Maintain controls until areas surrounding the foundation are stabilized. 5/25/06	-N/A
	-The area of silt fence south of Perry Ave. had the soil pulled back and was in good shape. 5/25/06.	-The fence is being monitored and sediment is removed regularly. 5/17-5/25/06.	-Silt was pulled back
	- The flooded silt fence north of Broad St was able to be restored. 5/25/06.	- Continue to maintain fence as needed. 5/25/06.	-Silt fence was repaired.
	- The silt fence to the area further north near #11078 was also repaired. 5/25/06	-Continue to maintain. 5/25/06	-Silt fence was repaired.
	- The foundation near the Norwalk substation has good silt fence coverage. 5/17-5/25/06.	-Continue to monitor due to proximity of the river. Consider picking up adjacent debris left behind by the river. 5/25/06	-N/A
	- Some of the wetland crossings in the Rt 7 ext-Kent Rd section now have controls at the mat corners. 5/25/06	- Continue to monitor. 5/25/06	- Controls were installed.
	- Continue to install controls on new crossings including near North Seir Hill Rd. 5/25/06	-Install haybales or silt fence at the corners of the mat crossings to prevent runoff from the access road. 5/25/06.	-Needs attention when feasible.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
	- A swale leading into a wetland area in the new, cleared portion of the ROW near Kent Rd. was noted. 5/25/06	- Install erosion controls along the tree line to prevent run-off to the wetland. 5/25/06	-Needs attention when feasible.
Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation	-The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings have worked well. 4/6-5/25/06.	- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-5/25/06.	-N/A until evaluated at the end of work.
Composite	- Direct damage was noted in the wetland at the 3 rd crossing as a result of equipment slipping. 2/16-5/25/06.	- The damage to the 3 rd wetland should be repaired if feasible but it may be more damaging to go in at this time. 5/4-5/25/06.	-N/A
345kV H-Frame	- At structure #6, most of the mud was removed from the wetland and they will continue to do so. 4/6-5/25/06.	- Continue to remove entire pile. 2/16-5/25/06.	-Needs attention when feasible.
	- A vehicle tracked through the wetland between #10-11. 5/25/06	- Ruts should be smoothed out and additional controls are needed. 5/25/06	-Needs attention
Norwalk Section	-Foundations being installed are adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies and most controls are in good shape. 5/25/06.	-Continue to monitor. 5/25/06.	-N/A.
All Sections	- Use caution in clearing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 3/29-5/25/06.	- Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible, especially at stream buffers. 3/2-5/25/06.	- Needs some improvement in the new section even though only invasive species are present
	-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-5/25/06.	-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-5/25/06. - Watch this near the pool on the new ROW section in Wilton	

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
State species of concern, threatened and endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-5/25/06. -The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting but is now in an active season. 4/6-5/25/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Now that weather is warmer, daily walkthroughs should be occurring prior to any work in the area. 4/6-5/25/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -N/A at this time
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p> <p>Composite</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adjacent homeowners near Gallows Hill mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-5/25/06. - A significant amount of chips were blown off the ROW into the upland and also along the wetland edge at the 3rd structure off Gallows Hill. These areas are off property. 2/22-5/25/06. -This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-5/25/06. -Clearing was not actively occurring along the ROW past Archers Lane. 5/25/06. -Two cleared corridors are present into Norwalk Junction. It appears that efforts to retain shrubs, especially in wetland areas could have been improved here 5/10-5/25/06. - Clearing of new ROW is underway in the Kent Rd. section. 5/25/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-5/25/06. -Replace shrubs where necessary. 5/25/06 - Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&M plan. 2/22-5/25/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 4/6-5/25/06. - To avoid wetland damage, trees here will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-5/25/06 -The area was largely clearcut when the D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 5/10-5/25/06 - Be extremely careful to retain shrubs and vegetation where feasible. 5/25/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Needs attention when feasible - Still needs attention CL&P is looking into this. - CL&P proposed the work under these specs. -N/A - Needs some improvement in the new section even though the majority of shrub species present are invasive
Norwalk Section			

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Dewatering	- No obvious dewatering efforts were noted. 5/25/06.	- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. (Make sure to check downgradient for these areas) Otherwise use a filter bag or adequate containment. 3/9-5/25/06.	-N/A at this time
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 5/25/06.	-None at this time. 5/25/06.	-N/A
Spills and Material Storage	-None of the parked or active equipment was leaking at the time of inspection. 3/15-5/25/06.	- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site - Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.	-N/A
Additional Observations			

Next likely scheduled inspection:

Thursday June 1, 2006

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Inspector's Signature:

Diana Walden for Don Ukers



(Composite Section): Photo on the left shows the Archers Lane pad looking towards the ROW. The upper wire was installed along the poles here. (345kV H-Frame): Photo on the right shows the wetland crossing near structure #9 in good shape. 5/25/06



(345kV H-Frame): Photo on the left shows a view of the wetland between structures #10 and 11 where a truck had accidentally driven through after mats were removed. Silt fence should be installed across the ROW on both ends and the surface restored where necessary. 5/25/06.



Photo on the left shows a view of the access road in the Chestnut Ridge Rd section between structures #5 and 6. Some ruts were noted here and they should be repaired. Photo on the right shows the wetland near structure #25 with controls remaining well in place. 5/25/06.



(Norwalk Section): Photo on the left shows the silt fence repaired by the structure just north of Broad St following the flooding. Photo on the right shows another area north of Broad St. where silt fence was also repaired. 5/25/06.



Photo on the left shows the foundation poured adjacent to the Norwalk Substation. Silt fence is in good shape here. Photo on the right shows the wires being pulled through the structures near the substation. 5/25/06.

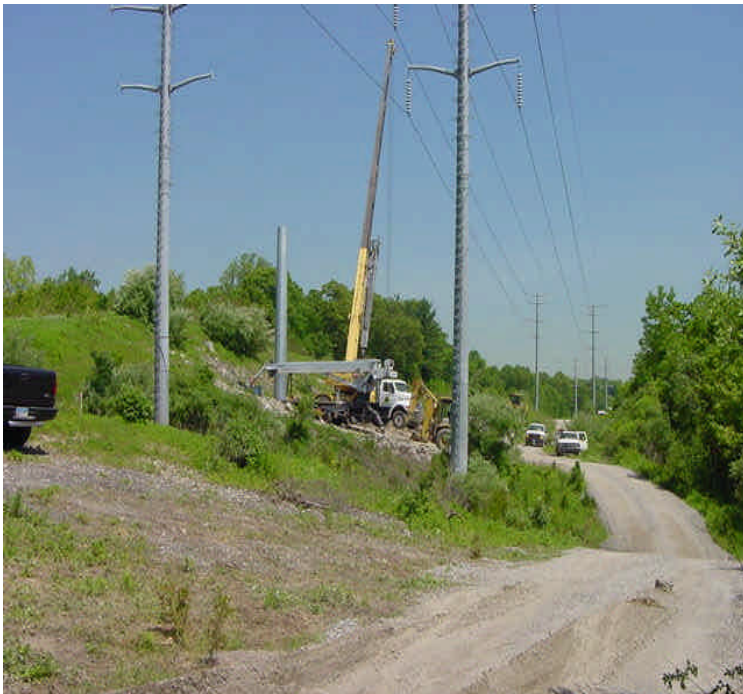


Photo on the left shows a structure being placed off Perry Ave. Photo on the right shows a wetland crossing near North Seir Hill Rd. Haybale or silt fence check dam should be placed at the corners. 5/25/06



Photo on the left shows an access road within the ROW off Kent Rd. Silt fence was installed along the roadway. Photo on the right shows another matted wetland crossing in this area. Check dams were installed at the corners. 5/25/06



Photo shows another matted portion of the access road. An old tower foundation here will be removed at the end of the project. 5/25/06



Photo on the left shows a view of the ongoing clearing work in the new portion of ROW off Kent Rd. Photo on the right shows a portion of the newly installed dust access road. 5/25/06



Photo on the left shows another view of the new access road and clearing. Photo on the right shows where clearing is occurring adjacent to a swale that enters a wetland area. Erosion controls should be installed to prevent any run-off. 5/25/06